

Agricultural.

All the summer, in connection with every operation, keep in mind the paramount object—the improvement of the farm.

Pouring boiling water on poultry house, sheltering it, allowing it to cool and clear, then using it of the color of tea is good for cucumbers.

A New Hampshire farmer relates that by allowing his sheep free run in his orchard he has gradually overcome wormy apples. The hogs like it, and the trees thrive under it, while the fruit is remarkably good.

Keep the flies out of the stable, even if it costs a little money to do so. The cost of screens will be amply repaid in satisfaction the horses will derive in being freed from these pests.

The watering troughs are liable to get full of filth and rubbish, and will need attention every day. The water for horses should be as pure as can be secured.

Redtop, according to Prof. Knapp, is a richer grass than timothy, but it needs to be cut early & deteriorates rapidly in albuminous and hot. Its most important purpose is for pasture on low, moist grounds, where it is unexcelled.

Midsummer, when the farmer can do it, is the best time to remove sprouts from apple trees. They are less likely to spread again if cut off now. Their removal is probably some check to the vigor of the tree, but this also is an advantage, as it favors the formation of fruit buds for another season.

In cultivating corn the hand should be thrown in ridges as little as possible. The corn roots before this time run to the middle of the spaces between the rows. They may be cut off without injury. The hand is then to be used to dig out the stalk and most likely to do this well, for every one that is severed, the center of the root cannot be scraped bare of earth without damage, and a further injury results when this loose earth is thrown against the stalk.

All experienced strawberry growers agree with John J. Thomas that the formation of runners exhausts and weakens the plants more than a dense mass of weeds. The grower who wishes strong vines, that will bear large fruits of good quality and abundance, must go through the pain and effort of removing the runners as often as once a week during the summer. The cutting should begin as soon as the plants throw out runners. If intended for use or to form new beds also in portion of the bed may be permitted to run and root. Unless cleared of runners and kept well cultivated most varieties will produce small crops. This is especially true of the larger sorts.

The first car load of new wheat arrived in St. Louis this year arrived on Saturday, June 20th, from Waco, Texas, and was sold on call for \$1.00. It was dirty and inspected No. 1. The first wheat when received last year was a lot of twenty-eight sacks from New Madrid, Mo., on June 17th.

The chief reason for the low prices of butter and cheese, this season, is the falling off in export. Thus, for the week ending June 20, only 7,132 pounds of butter and 10,324 pounds of cheese were exported from Boston, while for the corresponding week last year the exports were 75,700 pounds of butter, 321,761 pounds of cheese.

Prices for hogs have risen as low in this country as they are at the present time. Good hogs for packing purposes have recently been selling in Chicago for \$3.75 per cent. The highest price of the same class of hog ten years ago was \$10, and a year ago today \$5.25 and \$5.75. The price of the fat hams are also from \$1 up to \$10 per 100 pounds, lower now than they were a year ago.

The doubtful reproductive capacity of some insects is more than repaid in the vegetable world. The seeds in a single orbicular capsule are capable of breaking millions of plants. The spores from a single puff-ball might give puff-balls to every square mile in the United States. Nature provided checks to these enormous quantities, but man, however, can control the elements in some measure, and when he tries his hand intelligently we see what plants will do. At a recent meeting of an Ohio horticultural society it was stated that Captain C. Miller, of Akron, raised 1,777 pounds of potatoes last year from a single pound of seed. The tubers were put under glass and were crops of sprouts taken. These were carefully transplanted, and when well established they were set out in the open air.

Clover as Food and a Fortifier.

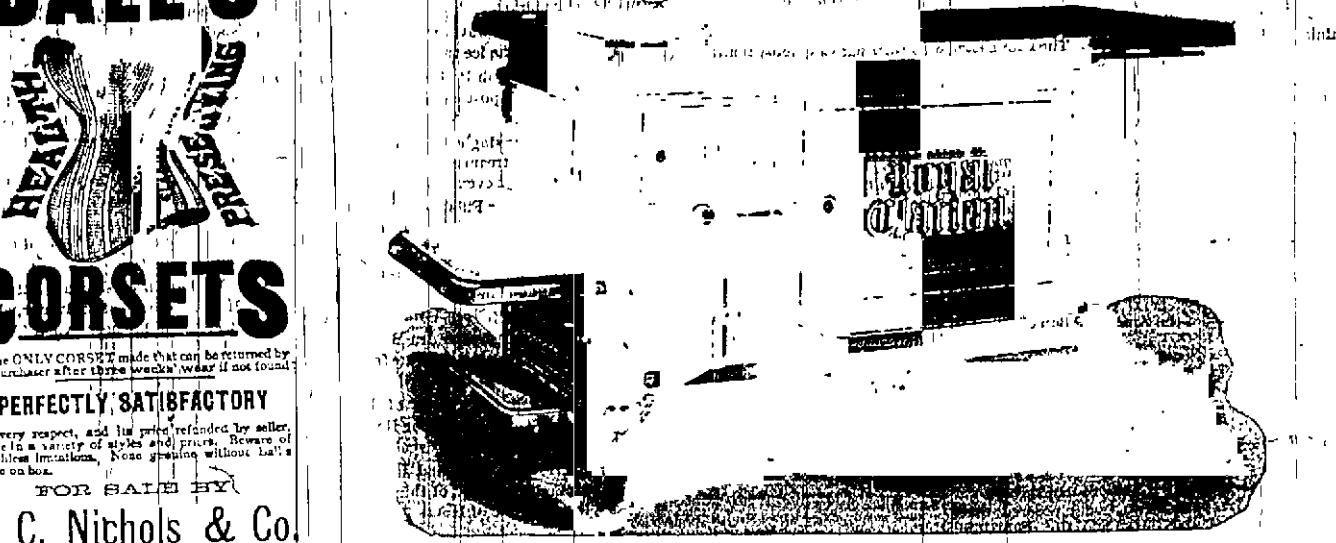
The idea that clover is too valuable as food to be used for ploughing into the soil, seems to be gathering ground in the minds of practical farmers, as well as of scientists in agricultural chemistry. A writer in the New York Tribune, from western New York, says his experience of many years on a grain farm has led him to discard the ploughing in of all green crops as a means of restoring the waste which follows continuous cropping, for to raise a crop from the soil and then return the same by ploughing it in, adds nothing but the original element which is taken from the atmosphere, and of which there is always an abundant supply.

He admits that the humus thus applied is usually beneficial in softening and improving a dead, heavy soil, but the mineral elements of plant food are not increased; though perhaps made more available to subsequent crops. The crop can be used with greater economy in other ways than by ploughing under. He had ploughed in clover for wheat until he had caused an excess of vegetable matter in the soil, resulting in a great growth of straw, but without a corresponding yield of grain. Lands so treated also become "clover-sick," so that it was difficult to obtain a seedling. He now sows clover, and thins upon all his grain fields, and cuts a hay crop two years in succession, feeding the hay to farm animals, and returning the mature manure to the soil for raising a crop. When sowing to wheat, 200 pounds of superphosphate are used per acre, with the best results.

Grain is purchased if needed, for fattening animals, and although it does not always pay at first, the system pays in the long run.

The Germanstown Telegraph says: How to come to the best advantage in the busy season of the year, is what every farmer should study well. It is not enough that he works hard all day long, scarcely taking time to eat his meals. If his work is not done right, in the right time and in the right way. Doing the work in the right time will save much unnecessary labor, by keeping all kinds of farm implements ready for use whenever needed; keeping fence up so not to be troubled with runaway cattle; but especially the raising of crops. It is necessary to be in time, both in seed and harvesting, and keep the weeds down from the spring of the year, so as not to let them get a start, or they will be hard to conquer later in the season.

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